




Attorney Docket No. 0756-7171

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Group Art Unit: 2812
Akihisa SHIMOMURA et al.) Examiner: Stanetta D. Isaac
Serial No. 10/607,542) <u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u>
Filed: June 27, 2003) I hereby certify that this correspondence is
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) 2006.



RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed May 22, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 27, 2003.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-43 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-4, 13, 19, 28 and 29 are independent. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 25 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner (page 2, Paper No. 0305). Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13-24, 26 and 28-43 are currently elected, of which claims 1, 3, 13, 19, 28 and 29 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15-24, 26 and 28-43 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,165,876 to Yamazaki. The Applicant respectfully